Amendment to the Specification

Please replace the abstract beginning on page 48 with the following amended abstract:

A backlight unit of a liquid crystal display device includes a prism light guide plate ~~(3)~~ supported by a frame-like chassis ~~(7)~~. The light guide plate ~~(3)~~ includes a light incident surface ~~(3i)~~ having two ends, near which stainless steel metal stoppers ~~(11A, 11B)~~ are attached respectively. The metal stoppers ~~(11A, 11B)~~ include pawls ~~(11Ap, 11Bp)~~ which, upon the attachment, come inward from sides of the light incident surface ~~(3i)~~ of the light guide plate ~~(3)~~ to between the light incident surface ~~(3i)~~ and a lamp ~~(8)~~ (lamp holders ~~(10)~~ ). When the liquid crystal display device is subjected to an impact from outside, the metal stoppers ~~(11A, 11B)~~ prevent the light guide plate ~~(3)~~ from moving toward the lamp ~~(8)~~, thereby offering improved impact resistance.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 10 with the following amended paragraph:

It is therefore a feature ~~an object~~ of the present invention to provide a surface lighting device such as a

backlight unit, capable of offering a high impact resistance without sacrificing a desired narrowness in the frame of the display device, under conditions where a prism light guide plate and/or a stainless-steel lamp reflector are used.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 16 with the following amended paragraph:

Another feature ~~object~~ of the present invention is to provide a liquid crystal display device using such a surface lighting device.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 26, line 28 with the following amended paragraph:

Further, if the stoppers are separate members as in the present embodiment, the stoppers can be used commonly in many different liquid crystal display modules. This can improve the impact resistance while avoiding unacceptable cost ~~const~~ increase in the addition of the stoppers as well as improving operability in assembling process.